

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 02867 161119Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 SSM-03 /104 W
-----041862 161713Z /50

R 160946Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1736
INFO AMEMBASSY ABUDHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2867

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, IR, ZP
SUBJECT: IRANIAN CONCERN AT POSSIBLE ARAB GULF SECURITY PACT

1. DURING APRIL 13 CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY POLITICAL
OFFICER, IRANIAN SECOND SECRETARY MAHRDAD KHONSARI
(VISITING JIDDA FROM LONDON) MENTIONED THAT IRANIAN GOVERNMENT
HAS HEARD THAT SAUDIS WERE PRESSING ARAB GULF STATES TO
SIGN SECURITY PACT WITH SAUDI ARABIA.

2. KHONSARI SAID THAT SUCH A PACT WOULD BE MATTER OF CON-
CERN TO IRAN, SINCE IT WOULD APPEAR TO GIVE SAUDIS RIGHT
TO INTERVENE IN GULF STATES WITHOUT CONSIDERATION OF
IRAN'S INTERESTS. IRAN'S ANXIETY IN THIS RESPECT IS
SIMILAR TO ARAB STATES CONCERN THAT GENERAL PERSIAN
GULF SECURITY PACT INCLUDING IRAN WOULD CONVINCE IRAN
SHE HAD RIGHT TO INTERVENE UNILATERALLY WHENEVER SHE
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 02867 161119Z

FELT HER INTERESTS IN GULF THREATENED.

3. COMMENT: KHONSARI'S STATEMENT IS FIRST NEWS EMBASSY
HAS RECEIVED THAT SAUDIS ARE PRESSING FOR SIGNED PACT.
HE IS PROBABLY REPORTING INFORMATION FROM EITHER IRANIAN
AMBASSADOR RA'ED IN JIDDA OR FROM MFA IN TEHRAN. EMBASSY
HAS NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS INFORMATION, WE FIND IT

STRANGE THAT SAUDIS WOULD RISK ANTAGONIZING IRANIANS DURING THIS PERIOD OF GOOD RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH IRANIANS ADMIT MAJOR SAUDI INTEREST IN SECURITY OF PERSIAN GULF STATES, THEY PREFER THIS INTEREST BE IN FORM OF UNWRITTEN UNDERSTANDING. SAUDIS HAVE TOLD US THAT IRANIANS HAVE COME TO RECOGNIZE SAUDI PRIMACY AS PROTECTOR OF SMALL GULF STATES. IF THIS SAUDI VIEW IS CORRECT, EXPLICIT PACT BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND HER GULF NEIGHBORS WOULD ACCOMPLISH LITTLE EXCEPT STIRRING UP IRANIAN ANXIETIES.
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